



2/16/12

Simplified Self Help Forms Now Available Through Judicial Branch Web Site Legal Online Self Help Center

Interactive forms for protection orders and criminal set-aside requests have been developed through a partnership between Nebraska Legal Aid and the Supreme Court Pro Se Committee. A2J -- or Access to Justice -- forms are designed to be easy to understand, easy to complete properly and easy to read.

The link from the Judicial Branch's Online Legal Self-Help Center takes users to the Virtual Self Help Center hosted by Legal Aid of Nebraska.

The Legal Aid A2J forms are provided as a service to low-income and other eligible Nebraskans to help them safe guard their legal rights and to understand their legal responsibilities. Most forms are designed for low income use only, but protection orders hold a unique status and can be used regardless of income. Courts do not determine income eligibility. Eligibility is determined through the question/answer process on the Legal Aid Web site.

Currently available in the A2J Virtual Self Help Center are:

- Protection order requests for both domestic violence and harassment

- Motion to set aside a criminal conviction for both district and county courts

Divorce forms with and without children are currently under review.

Judicial Branch Legal Online Self Help: <http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/self-help/>

Questions: Janet Bancroft -- janet.bancroft@nebraska.gov

*Attached: Clerk's instruction sheet on
adding A2J to JUSTICE system*



A2J Filings for Pro Se Litigants

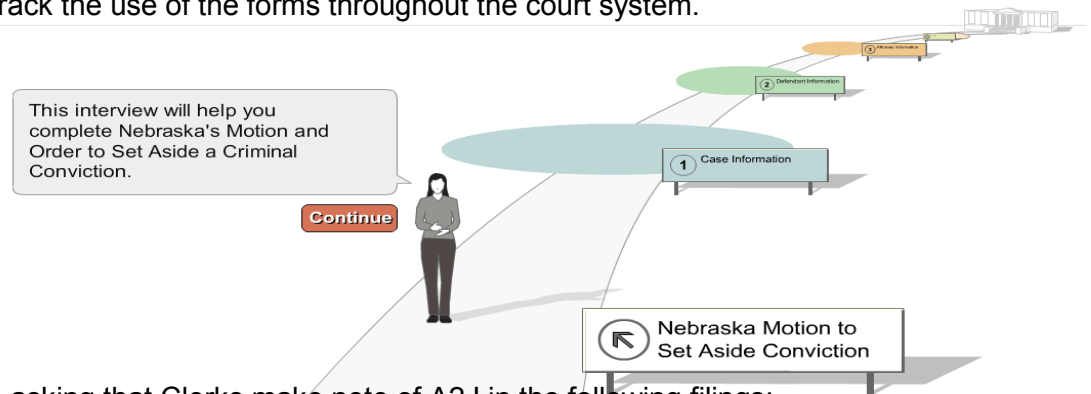
JUSTICE:

New Action of A2JFILE – A2J Filing Document

Beginning January 1, 2012, JUSTICE will have a 'new action' field added for tracking A2J forms through the Pro Se Committee and Legal Aid.

When an individual uses the A2J system to create a form, it will have a watermark/footer showing that the form was initiated from the A2J system.

The field will be used to track the use of the forms throughout the court system.



The Pro Se Committee is asking that Clerks make note of A2J in the following filings:

- Original filing of Complaint for Dissolution with children or without children
- Original filing of Application for Protection Order
- Original filing of Application for Harassment Order
- Filing of Motion to Set Aside Criminal Conviction

When filings are received in the above identified instances and use the new form, add the action of A2JFILE on ADDACTS. The Party/Bar field in JUSTICE will be left blank.

There will be A2J logos on subsequent filings, but marking each filing was thought to be too cumbersome. The Committee thought they could get by with marking only the initial filing. There will be more case types added in the future.

From time to time a programmer will be able to run a query of all instances of A2JFILE and provide information on how often the new forms are being used.

Questions? Contact: Janet Bancroft, janet.bancroft@nebraska.gov

